of Windsor " at His Majesty's, it was only natural that I should accept the offer joyfully. I telegraphed to Henry Irving, asking him if he had any objection, to my playing at His Majesty's. He answered : " Quite willing if proposed arrangements about matinees are adhered to."

I have thought it worth while to give the facts about this engagement, because so many people seemed at the time, and afterwards, to think that I had treated Henry Irving badly by going to play in another theatre, and that theatre one where a certain rivalry with the Lyceum as regards Shakespearean productions had grown up. There was absolutely no foundation for the rumours that my " desertion " caused further estrangement between Henry Irving and cie.

" Heaven give you many, many merry

days and nights," he telegraphed to me on the first night ; and after that first night (the jolliest that I ever saw), he wrote delighting in my success.

It *was* a success — there was no doubt about it ! Some people accused the Merry Wives of rollicking and " maffick-ing" overmuch — but these were the people who forgot that we were acting in a farce, and that farce is farce, even when Shakespeare is the author.

All the summer I enjoyed myself thoroughly. It was all such *good fun* — Mrs. Kendal was so clever and delightful to play with, Mr. Tree so indefatigable in discovering new funny "business."

After the dress-rehearsal I wrote in my diary ; *' Edy has real genius for dresses for the stage." My dress for Mrs. Page was such a *real* thing — it helped me enormously — and I was never more grateful for niy daughter's gift than when I played Mrs. Page,

It was an admirable all-round cast — almost a " star " cast : Oscar Asche as Ford. ix>or

Henrv Kemble